



# Weekly Update

Friday, March 17, 2017

## ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES HEADS TO OAKLAWN FOR REBEL

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, March 17, 2017)** – Two of California's budding stars, **American Anthem** and **Royal Mo**, invade Hot Springs, Ark. for Saturday's \$900,000 Rebel Stakes (GII) at Oaklawn Park – the lone Championship Series race this weekend on the Road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by TwinSpires.com.

The Rebel is slated as Race 10 at Oaklawn with a scheduled post time of 7:06 p.m. (all times EDT).

The lucrative 1 1/16-mile race will award 50 points to the winner and 20 to the runner-up. The third and fourth-place finishers will earn 10 and 5 points, respectively. The top point earners in the 37-race Road to the Kentucky Derby series will have preference to compete in the 20-horse Grade I, \$2 million Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on Saturday, May 6.

American Anthem looks to avenge his narrow defeat to Royal Mo's stable mate **Gormley** in the Jan. 7 Sham Stakes (GIII) at Santa Anita as the 2-1 morning line favorite. American Anthem's trainer, **Bob Baffert** is no stranger to winning the Rebel Stakes, doing so a record six times in the last seven years.

Fellow Californian Royal Mo also made the more than 1,700-mile journey to Oaklawn and is the 9-2 co-third choice on the morning line. Royal Mo was most recently the 3 1/2-length victor in the Feb. 4 Robert B. Lewis (GIII) and will mark his trainer **John Shirreffs**' first start at Oaklawn Park in nearly three years.

The California invaders will have to deal with local-hope **Petrov** for co-owner and trainer **Ron Moquett**. Petrov was a game runner-up to **One Liner** in the Feb. 20 Southwest Stakes (GIII), the local prep for the Rebel.

Other contenders include lightly-raced and undefeated **Malagacy** for trainer **Todd Pletcher**, Southwest Stakes fourth-place finisher **Silver Dust** and Louisiana invader **Untrapped**, who was most recently the runner-up to **Girvin** in the Feb. 25 Risen Star (GII) at Fair Grounds.

Elsewhere, no Road to the Kentucky Oaks Championship Series races are scheduled this week. That series resumes with the Bourbonette Oaks at Turfway Park on March 25 and Sunland Park Oaks on March 26.

A trio of Road to the Kentucky Derby Championship Series races will be staged next week: the UAE Derby (100-40-20-10) and Spiral (50-20-10-5) on March 25 and Sunland Derby (50-20-10-5) on March 26.

## #TRENDING

1. Hall of Fame trainer **Bob Baffert** boasts an impressive 43-21-7-5 (48.8%) career record in stakes races at Oaklawn Park, including an 8-6-0-1 (75.0%) record in the Rebel. He's won the Rebel a record six times in the last seven years: **Lookin At Lucky** (2010), **The Factor** (2011), **Secret Circle** (2012), **Hoppertunity** (2014), **American Pharoah** (2015) and **Cupid** (2016). He failed to win in 2013 when **Den's Legacy** was third and **Super Ninety Nine** was fifth.
2. Past renewals of the Rebel have produced a trio of Kentucky Derby winners: **Sunny's Halo** (1982), **Smarty Jones** (2004) and Triple Crown winner **American Pharoah** (2015).
3. Runaway Smarty Jones winner **Uncontested**, who was beaten 12 3/4 lengths by **One Liner** when sixth in the Southwest Stakes, will attempt to become the Southwest's first beaten-favorite to win the Rebel since **Dalhart** in 1993.
4. Seven-time Eclipse Award-winning trainer **Todd Pletcher** improved his Oaklawn Park career stakes race record to 63-15-12-4 (23.8%) when **One Liner** won the Feb. 20 Southwest. However, he's 0-for-4 lifetime in the Rebel: **Cayman Cat** was fifth in 1999; **Purge** was second in 2004; **Delhomme** was 11th in 2013; and **Madefromlucky** was second in 2015.
5. Southern California-based trainer **John Shirreffs** is no stranger to Oaklawn Park. He's saddled starters in the Apple Blossom Handicap (GI) on six occasions and won the race twice with **Zenyatta** in 2008 and '10. He also won the 2008 Oaklawn Handicap (GII) with **Tiago**. Like Rebel entrant **Royal Mo**, Zenyatta and Tiago were owned by **Jerry and Ann Moss**.
6. Seven of the last nine Rebel Stakes winners have been ship-ins. Five horses are shipping in for Saturday's race: **American Anthem**, **Malagacy**, **Royal Mo**, **Sonneteer**, and **Untrapped**.
7. It's all in the family for the jockey-trainer combo of Rebel entrant **Uncontested**. Jockey **Channing Hill** is married to trainer **Wayne Catalano**'s daughter **Shelbi**.
8. Five of the last 13 Rebel Stakes winners have gone to become champions: **American Pharoah** (2015), **Will Take Charge** (2013), **Lookin At Lucky** (2010), **Curlin** (2007), and **Smarty Jones** (2004).
9. **Mastery**, who suffered a condylar fracture to his left front leg while winning Saturday's San Felipe by 6 3/4 lengths to remain unbeaten in four starts, underwent surgery Monday. He would have been considered as a Kentucky Derby favorite but he is sidelined indefinitely.
10. Late nominations to the Triple Crown will close Monday. A \$6,000 payment must be postmarked by Monday in order for a horse to be eligible for the three-race series. Visit [www.thetriplecrown.com](http://www.thetriplecrown.com) for more information.

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## DOWN THE STRETCH

Today (Friday) marks 50 days until Kentucky Derby 143 on the first Saturday in May. ... Early Kentucky Derby favorites **Classic Empire**, last year's champion 2-year-old male, and unbeaten **McCraken** breezed last weekend at Palm Meadows training center in south Florida following recent setbacks. Both colts are targeting the April 8 Blue Grass. ... Trainer **Todd Pletcher** will firm up his final Derby prep plans for **Always Dreaming**, **Battalion Runner**, **One Liner** and **Tapwrit** following Saturday workouts at Palm Beach Downs. ... **Uncontested**'s ownership group of **Harry Rosenblum** and **Bob Lapenta** are trying to qualify a horse in the Kentucky Derby for the third-straight year. They previously qualified **Far Right**, 15<sup>th</sup> in 2015, and **Whitmore**, 19<sup>th</sup> in 2016. ... Hall of Fame jockey **Gary Stevens** picked up the mount on long shot **Appalachian Gem** in Saturday's **Rebel**. Stevens, 53, returned to the saddle March 7 following hip replacement surgery in December. ... Trainer **Kenny McPeek** plans to enter a trio of Triple Crown nominees in upcoming preps: **Oxford Lane** in the March 26 Sunland Derby, **Senior Investment** in the April 1 Louisiana Derby and **It's Your Nickel** in the April 8 Blue Grass. He also has Brazilian Group 1-winner **Vettori Kin (BRZ)** on course for the March 25 UAE Derby but the colt is a Southern Hemisphere 3-year-old, which is considered to be a 4-year-old in North America and therefore ineligible for the Kentucky Derby. ... The **Todd Pletcher**-trained **Master Plan**, winner of the \$100,000 OBS Championship on Jan. 24, was flown to Dubai on Tuesday to compete in the UAE Derby. ... **Churchill Downs Racing Club's** Spendthrift Farm Stallion Stakes winner **Warrior's Club** is entered in a one-mile, first-level allowance on Saturday at Oaklawn Park (Race 2 at 2:38 p.m. ET) against seven rivals, including Smarty Jones third **Rowdy the Warrior**. A good effort by Warrior's Club, a 3-year-old son of Warrior's Reward, could propel him to a race during the Keeneland Meet, according to Hall of Fame trainer **D. Wayne Lukas**. ... Oaklawn's allowance for 3-year-olds lured 17 entrants, which means the race was split. The second division (Race 6 at 4:45 p.m. ET) includes **Greeley and Ben**, who looks to make his 3-year-old debut for trainer **Gary Thomas** after breaking his maiden at Churchill Downs on Nov. 13. ... The Churchill Downs stable area and Trackside Louisville, Churchill Downs' satellite training center located five miles away, will reopen Monday. Training will begin Wednesday from 6-8 a.m. Training hours will be extended to 10 a.m. once the horse population warrants the change. ... Today (Friday) is the final day to nominate and/or vote for one of the 143 breast and ovarian cancer survivors to participate in the ninth annual **Kentucky Oaks Survivors Parade** presented by **Kroger**. Visit [www.kentuckyderby.com/survivors](http://www.kentuckyderby.com/survivors).

## PAST PERFORMANCES & STAKES HISTORIES

Brisnet.com Triple Crown Past Performances  
[http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet\\_promos/TCnoms17.pdf](http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet_promos/TCnoms17.pdf)

Brisnet.com Kentucky Oaks Past Performances  
[http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet\\_promos/KYOaks17.pdf](http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet_promos/KYOaks17.pdf)

Brisnet.com Rebel Past Performances  
[http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet\\_promos/Rebel17.pdf](http://www.brisnet.com/brisnet_promos/Rebel17.pdf)

Rebel Stakes History  
[https://www.kentuckyderby.com/uploads/wysiwyg/assets/uploads/Stakes\\_Histories - Rebel\\_2017.pdf](https://www.kentuckyderby.com/uploads/wysiwyg/assets/uploads/Stakes_Histories - Rebel_2017.pdf)

## Rebel (GII)

Saturday, March 18, \$900,000, 3yo, 1 1/16 M, Oaklawn Park (R10), 7:06 p.m. ET. TV: TVG/TVG2.

#	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	ML
1.	Silver Bullion	Ramon Vazquez	D. Wayne Lukas	30-1
2.	Uncontested	Channing Hill	Wayne Catalano	10-1
3.	Sonneteer	Richard Eramia	Keith Desormeaux	30-1
4.	Petrov	Jose Ortiz	Ron Moquett	9-2
5.	Untrapped	Irad Ortiz Jr.	Steve Asmussen	8-1
6.	Malagacy	Javier Castellano	Todd Pletcher	4-1
7.	American Anthem	Mike Smith	Bob Baffert	2-1
8.	Silver Dust	Corey Lanerie	Randy Morse	15-1
9.	Appalachian Gem	Gary Stevens	Jack Van Berg	30-1
10.	Royal Mo	Victor Espinoza	John Shirreffs	9-2
11.	Lookin At Lee	Ricardo Santana Jr.	Steve Asmussen	15-1

## SELECT COMPETITORS

Horse	Trainer	Next Start
Always Dreaming	Todd Pletcher	April 1 Florida Derby
American Anthem	Bob Baffert	March 18 Rebel
Battalion Runner	Todd Pletcher	April 1 Florida Derby or race on April 8
Basha	Gilberto Zerpa	March 25 Spiral
Battle of Midway	Jerry Hollendorfer	April 8 Santa Anita Derby or Blue Grass
Beasley	Mark Hennig	TBA
Blueridge Traveler	Kenny McPeek	March 25 Spiral
Bronze Age	Bob Baffert	March 26 Sunland Derby
Classic Empire	Mark Casse	April 8 Blue Grass
Cloud Computing	Chad Brown	April 8 Wood Memorial
Dilettante	D. Wayne Lukas	March 26 Sunland Derby
El Areeb	Cal Lynch	April 8 Blue Grass or Wood Memorial
En Hanse	Mike Maker	March 25 Spiral
Epicharis (JPN)	Kiyoshi Hagiwara	March 25 UAE Derby
Girvin	Joe Sharp	April 1 Louisiana Derby
Gormley	John Shirreffs	April 8 Santa Anita Derby
Guest Suite	Neil Howard	April 1 Louisiana Derby
Gunnevera	Antonio Sano	April 1 Florida Derby
Hence	Steve Asmussen	March 26 Sunland Derby
Hot Dad	Mike Maker	March 25 Spiral
Iliad	Doug O'Neill	April 8 Santa Anita Derby
Irap	Doug O'Neill	March 26 Sunland Derby
Irish War Cry	Graham Motion	April 8 Wood Memorial
It's Your Nickel	Kenny McPeek	April 8 Blue Grass
J Boys Echo	Dale Romans	April 8 Blue Grass
Lancaster Bomber	Aidan O'Brien	March 25 UAE Derby
Local Hero	Steve Asmussen	April 1 Louisiana Derby
Lookin At Lee	Steve Asmussen	March 18 Rebel
Lookin For Eight	Mark Casse	April 1 Louisiana Derby
Malagacy	Todd Pletcher	March 18 Rebel
Master Plan	Todd Pletcher	March 25 UAE Derby
McCraken	Ian Wilkes	April 8 Blue Grass
Mo Town	Tony Dutrow	April 1 Florida Derby or April 8 Wood Memorial
One Liner	Todd Pletcher	April 8 Wood Memorial
Oxford Lane	Kenny McPeek	March 26 Sunland Derby
Petrov	Ron Moquett	March 18 Rebel
Practical Joke	Chad Brown	Race on April 1 or April 8
Reach the World	Bob Baffert	April 8 Santa Anita Derby
Royal Mo	John Shirreffs	March 18 Rebel
Senior Investment	Kenny McPeek	April 1 Louisiana Derby
Shareholder Value	Tom Amoss	March 26 Sunland Derby
Silver Bullion	D. Wayne Lukas	March 18 Rebel
Silver Dust	Randy Morse	March 18 Rebel
So Conflated	Doug O'Neill	March 25 Spiral
Sonneteer	Keith Desormeaux	March 18 Rebel
State of Honor	Mark Casse	April 1 Florida Derby
Tapwrit	Todd Pletcher	Race on April 8 or April 15
Term of Art	Doug O'Neill	April 8 Santa Anita Derby
Third Day	Todd Pletcher	March 26 Sunland Derby
Three Rules	Jose Pinchin	April 1 Florida Derby
Uncontested	Wayne Catalano	March 18 Rebel
Untrapped	Steve Asmussen	March 18 Rebel
Wild Shot	Rusty Arnold II	April 8 Blue Grass?

## TAKING SHAPE

The possible fields for Kentucky Derby Championship Series races are fluid as horsemen vie for points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by TwinSpires.com." Below are known horses mentioned to be under consideration for each race based on published news reports and other sources (with Road to the Kentucky Derby point totals). Again, the shape of these fields is fluid and some horses are considered "possible" for multiple races:

**MARCH 25 UAE DERBY** – \$2 million UAE Derby (GII) to be run over 1 3/16 miles at Meydan Racecourse in Dubai: Adirato-JPN (0), Bee Jersey (0), Epicharis-JPN (0), Lancaster Bomber (0), Master Plan (0) and Spirit of Valor (0). **Not Triple Crown Nominated:** Cosmo Charlie, Fawtree, Fly at Dawn, f-Midnight Chic, f-Nomorerichblondes, Quatar Man-IRE, Thunder Snow, Top Score-GB. Kentucky Derby Ineligible (Southern Hemisphere 3yo): He Runs Away-ARG, Vettori Kin-BRZ. **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**MARCH 25 SPIRAL** – \$500,000 Spiral Stakes (GIII) to be run over 1 1/8 miles (Polytrack) at Turfway Park in Florence, Ky.: Basha (0), Blueridge Traveller (0), En Hanse (0), Hot Dad (0), So Conflated (0). **Not Triple Crown Nominated:** Birdseyeview (0), Colonel Samsen (0), Fast and Accurate (0), Kitten's Cat (0), Impressive Edge (0), Parlor (0), Star Power (0). **Points to Top 4:** 50-20-10-5.

**MARCH 26 SUNLAND DERBY** – \$800,000 Sunland Derby (GIII) to be run over 1/18 miles at Sunland Park in Hobbs, New Mexico: Irap (8), Bronze Age (0), Dilettante (0), Hence (0), Oxford Lane (0), Shareholder Value (0), Third Day (0). **Not Triple Crown Nominated:** Conquest Mo Money, Hedge Fund, Kimbear, Oh So Regal, Ol' Drunk Daddy, Total Tap, Wine N Divine. **Points to Top 4:** 50-20-10-5.

**APRIL 1 LOUISIANA DERBY** – \$1 million Louisiana Derby (GII) to be run over 1 1/8 miles at Fair Grounds in New Orleans, La.: Girvin (50), Guest Suite (15), Local Hero (10), Lookin for Eight (0), Senior Investment (0). **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**APRIL 1 FLORIDA DERBY** – \$1 million Florida Derby (GI) to be run over 1 1/8 miles at Gulfstream Park in Hallandale, Fla.: Gunnevera (64), Practical Joke (34), State of Honor (22), Mo Town (10), Three Rules (10), Always Dreaming (0), Battalion Runner (0). **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**APRIL 8 WOOD MEMORIAL** – \$750,000 Wood Memorial (GII) to be run over 1 1/8 miles on the inner track at Aqueduct in Ozone Park, N.Y.: Practical Joke (34), El Areeb (30), Cloud Computing (20), Irish War Cry (10), One Liner (10), Mo Town (10), Battalion Runner (0). **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**APRIL 8 BLUE GRASS** – \$1 million Blue Grass (GII) to be run over 1 1/8 miles at Keeneland Racecourse in Lexington, Ky.: J Boys Echo (53), Practical Joke (34), Classic Empire (32), El Areeb (30), McCracken (20), Battalion Runner (0), Battle of Midway (0), It's Your Nickel (0). **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**APRIL 8 SANTA ANITA DERBY** – \$1 million Santa Anita Derby (GI) to be run over 1 1/8 miles at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif.: Gormley (25), Iliad (20), Term of Art (11), One Liner (10), Battalion Runner (0), Battle of Midway (0), Reach the World (0). **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**APRIL 15 ARKANSAS DERBY** – \$1 million Arkansas Derby (GI) to be run over 1 1/8 miles at Oaklawn Park in Hot Springs, Ark.: TBA. **Points to Top 4:** 100-40-20-10.

**APRIL 15 LEXINGTON** – \$200,000 Lexington (GIII) to be run 1 1/16 miles at Keeneland Racecourse in Lexington, KY.: TBA. **Points to Top 4:** 10-4-2-1.

## LEADERBOARDS

### ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY TOP 20

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1	Gunnevera	64	Antonio Sano	\$1,042,800
2	Tapwrit	54	Todd Pletcher	\$295,570
3	J Boys Echo	53	Dale Romans	\$255,000
4	Girvin	50	Joe Sharp	\$249,800
5	Practical Joke	34	Chad Brown	\$766,000
6	Classic Empire	32	Mark Casse	\$1,493,820
7	El Areeb	30	Cal Lynch	\$330,000
8	Gormley	25	John Shirreffs	\$284,000
9	Untrapped	24	Steve Asmussen	\$120,000
10	State of Honor	22	Mark Casse	\$119,564
11	McCraken	20	Ian Wilkes	\$285,048
12	Iliad	20	Doug O'Neill	\$200,000
13	Cloud Computing	20	Chad Brown	\$60,000
14	Wild Shot	17	Rusty Arnold II	\$132,200
15	Guest Suite	15	Neil Howard	\$144,040
16	Lookin At Lee	12	Steve Asmussen	\$325,600
17	Term of Art	11	Doug O'Neill	\$119,000
18	Uncontested	11	Wayne Catalano	\$100,729
19	One Liner	10	Todd Pletcher	\$300,000
20	Irish War Cry	10	Graham Motion	\$272,660

### JAPAN ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY DERBY

Note: One spot in the Kentucky Derby starting gate is an invitation to the "Japan Road to the Kentucky Derby" point leader. The invitation order of preference is Epicharis-JPN (50 points), Mont Saint Legame-JPN (40 points) and Adirato-JPN (20 points)

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1.	Epicharis-JPN	50	Kiroshi Hagiwara	\$451,195
2.	Mont Saint Legame-JPN	40	Koji Maki	\$90,154
3.	Adirato-JPN	20	Naosuke Sugai	\$155,278
4.	Caucus-JPN	16	Hideaki Fujiwara	\$35,850
5.	Foggy Night-JPN	5	Noriyuki Hori	\$23,922

### ROAD TO THE KENTUCKY OAKS TOP 20

#	Horse	Points	Trainer	NRSE
1	Farrell	70	Wayne Catalano	\$333,407
2	Unique Bella	70	Jerry Hollendorfer	\$300,000
3	Miss Sky Warrior	60	Kelly Breen	\$412,840
4	It Tiz Well	54	Jerry Hollendorfer	\$160,000
5	Abel Tasman	30	Simon Callaghan	\$200,000
6	Daddys Lil Darling	20	Kenny McPeek	\$339,240
7	Benner Island	20	Brad Cox	\$55,823
8	Jordan's Henny	20	Mike Tomlinson	\$42,160
9	Valadorna	18	Mark Casse	\$360,000
10	Shane's Girlfriend	12	Doug O'Neill	\$268,000
11	Chanel's Legacy	11	Lynn Chleborad	\$206,667
12	Summer Luck	11	Mark Casse	\$37,700
13	Dancing Rags	10	Graham Motion	\$260,000
14	Noted and Quoted	10	Bob Baffert	\$218,000
15	Tequila	10	Michael Matz	\$179,040
16	Lockdown	10	Bill Mott	\$60,000
17	Elate	10	Bill Mott	\$30,000
18	Spooky Woods	10	Jerry Hollendorfer	\$25,000
19	Wicked Lick	9	Brendan Walsh	\$38,428
20	Mopotism	6	Doug O'Neill	\$121,000

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